

Small items presented to the Tasmanian Museum and transferred to the Royal Society on indefinite loan.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPTS

- 1 Bishop of Tasmania (Henry Hutchinson Montgomery) - notes of 'memories collected by H.H.Tasmania at Waratah, Oct. 1899' (memories of William Coventry, a native aged 85) (paper)

(3) 9767/R236 Memories - (Collected by H. H. Sammis  
MONTGOMERY Y. at Waratah. Oct/9.)

William Covert was born in Jan 1814 at North  
Bridgewater and is now living at Waratah in the  
full possession of his faculties. The following facts  
are the result of a morning's conversation with him.

Blacks. He often saw them near Hobart. He has seen 200 or 300 of them come into Hobart - some of them perfectly naked, till people gave them trousers or clothes which they at once put on: sometimes a waistcoat only. I fancy that he exaggerates numbers - & they are more likely to have been 30 or 40. He was six years old at the time - in 1820.

1820.  
He never saw them make fire with sticks but he was  
always given to understand in those days that  
they did not rub a piece longitudinally in the  
tea tree, but rubbed two pieces of wood crosswise.

The Black Line. In 1830, Coontz when 18 years of age formed part of the Black Line. His party went as high as the falls of the Des Moines - does not remember how far west other parties went - probably up to Westbury - and then all turned eastward. He was in the detachment commanded by Lieut. Murray. The plan was that never less than three men were in a party - but in thick scrub they rose to 50 or 60. In open country they were at times 200 yards apart - but in the brush not more than 50 yards. All day long they fired blank cartridge

all down the line, and he thinks they did by these means keep the blacks in front of them. So they might they made shelters with boughs & bark. He was a volunteer and received no pay but was fed and armed by Government; and was about seven months out. At night a sentry was placed between each group: and at the time it was said that the blacks who numbered, it was supposed, some 300 in front of them, escaped ~~near~~ through the line at the Whitewash because a sentry left his post and the blacks slipped through. They had a black who was forced to help them. This man escaped, and they took only two black boys. Crowley himself never saw a black all the time he was out.

Though only 16 Crowley was made leader of his party because the party was smart and he was supposed to be the truest of them.

The Blacks in the North. Crowley went to Stanley in 1842. Just after he went there a party of some eight blacks headed by Black Jimmy was taken at Cape Grim by two hunters named Pirby and Brumby. These men had black wives, and through the wives they



<sup>3</sup> secured the natives. They knew something of their language, and promised these blacks that if they would come into their whale boat they should be taken to the place where the rum and the sugar grew so that they could help themselves to as much as they liked. They were then taken to Laurenceston ~~beater~~. Brumby's wife was called "Black Mog." Neither of these two black women had any children by these men. (The Constable on the Hunter)

David Howie. Cowenby knew Howie well. He also knew the men who were in the boat with Howie when they sailed for King Island in 1852 - from Stanley. Their boat was on the West Beach. Howie, Halton, Jackson and another were all in liquor when they started and were never heard of again.

Mr. Howie is now Mr. Brown and lives at Burnie.

Emus. Cowenby thinks he saw an Emu near the Oxen in 1830. He never saw any wild birds in the north, but the Emus in the Park at Stanley in 1842 (which he often saw) were Tasmanian birds. He does not think they ever laid any eggs there.

9767/2226

5. Cowen's memories of Knopwood and  
of Convicts. Collected in 1899.

The Rev. R. Knopwood. Mr Knopwood had a man  
servant and general factotum. One day a  
man was reported to be dead in the hospital  
at Hobart. Knopwood said to his servant  
"The man must be buried at Ten Towns."  
"But, sir," said the servant - "The man, I find,  
is not dead yet."

Dead or alive, said Knopwood, - the man must  
be buried at Ten Towns. I have to be  
at New Norfolk at one o'clock."

The Convicts. When the cars sold (in 1820)  
Cowen's two men flogged stripped to the  
waist. They were flogged the length of  
Liverpool St. Women and children  
came out to see them. The men did not  
utter a word, though perhaps they had to  
walk a quarter of a mile during the  
operation. When there were two men, one  
sat in the cart - to which the other man  
was tied by the arms. When they reached  
the top of the street the men changed

6  
places and the second flogging took place. 9767/R236  
Two warders did the work - one from the  
left hand the other from the right  
alternately.

John Price and a Convict at Norfolk Island.

There was a Scotchman and a notorious  
character brought up before Price. Price  
ordered him fifty lashes.

"Fifty" - said the man - "I would not take off  
my jacket for the like of fifty."  
"Very well," said Price, "give him ~~for~~ fifty more."  
"ay - and fifty more" - cried the man.

"and fifty more" said Price.

"and fifty more" said the man.

So they went on bidding against each other  
till the number was 1300. Price went  
out to see the punishment carried out,  
and found the man steadily cursing the  
Commandant all the while in a roaring  
voice. The punishment was stopped, and  
the man became one of Price's pets.



7. Crowding once and 12 men hanged at one time in the barr. and 8 on another occasion. When the drop was let go, the men vanished from the view of the spectators.

It was on this occasion that Mr. Bedford examined the apparatus and decided that they could only hang a certain number at a time. Having inspected the place - he said - "Twelve men can hang there quite comfortably - but more would find it crowded."

Crowding saw Brady and Macabe hanged.

(Rowen ty is today the oldest male native of the Colony - being nearly 86.

W<sup>m</sup>. Cleburne ~~is~~ <sup>in the barr</sup> is the oldest female native. She was born in 1807, and is living at Reddon hms. Crowding knew her when he was a boy. W.T.S.)

4. But he certainly saw tigers brought to Hobart from the  
midlands in 1825. as  
Tigers. He saw tigers near the Dromedary  
in early days. 976/K236

The hut at Stanley. The hut in 1842 was  
covered with star, stunted trees. It was such  
poor pinewood that it was all soon cut-  
down: and the logs were rolled down the  
hill.

He distinctly remembers masses of shells  
(mussels and such like) on the top of the  
hut, and supposes that the blacks took  
them up there.